

Experience

Deriah

Aboriginal Area

Where culture comes alive

Birruu gaba lookout. Peter Berney/DPE

Yaama Gulbiyaay (Hello and welcome)

Deriah forest is a special place for the Gamilaraay people (also spelt Gomeroi, Gamilaroi or Kamilaroi). It offers spectacular views of the Nandewar Range to the east and to the Liverpool Plains to the south. The reserve contains numerous Aboriginal sites and evidence of items once traded between Aboriginal groups. It is home to a range of threatened plants and animals and contains remnants of dry rainforest in sheltered gullies.

A brief history

Deriah Aboriginal Area is located in the foothills of the Nandewar Range, approximately 22km east of Narrabri, on the north west slopes of New South Wales.

The reserve forms part of the traditional country of the Gamilaraay Aboriginal people, and was first explored by Sir Thomas Mitchell and Allan Cunningham in 1831.

The exact origin of the name 'Deriah' is unknown, although it may be a derivation of the Gamilaraay word 'dhiriya'. 'Dhiriya' has a few cultural references associated with it, but it's commonly used when describing an old man.

Joint-management

The Deriah Aboriginal Area Joint-management Committee works in partnership with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to help guide management of the reserve and encourage connection with country.

This committee consists of Aboriginal community members from Narrabri who represent Gamilaraay families with a historical connection to the area.

Things to see and do

Deriah Aboriginal Area provides a number of places to learn more about its Aboriginal cultural heritage as well as walks where you can explore the distinctive landscape found in the foothills of the Nandewar Range.

Winangabaa - Information Bay

Set in Ooline dry rainforest, interpretative signs provide park visitors with insights into the natural, cultural and historic heritage that makes this area special. The Giniya Yanagubaa walk starts from here.

Wirrila picnic area and Sculpture Walk

The Wirrila picnic area has free gas barbecues, toilet facilities, untreated water and picnic shelters so you can stop and enjoy a barbecue lunch while learning about Gamilaraay culture and language. Explore the visitor area and learn why the brush turkey lays its eggs in the ground, how the willy wagtail got its white chest, and how the goanna got its stripes. Parking includes one coach parking spot and four car parks.

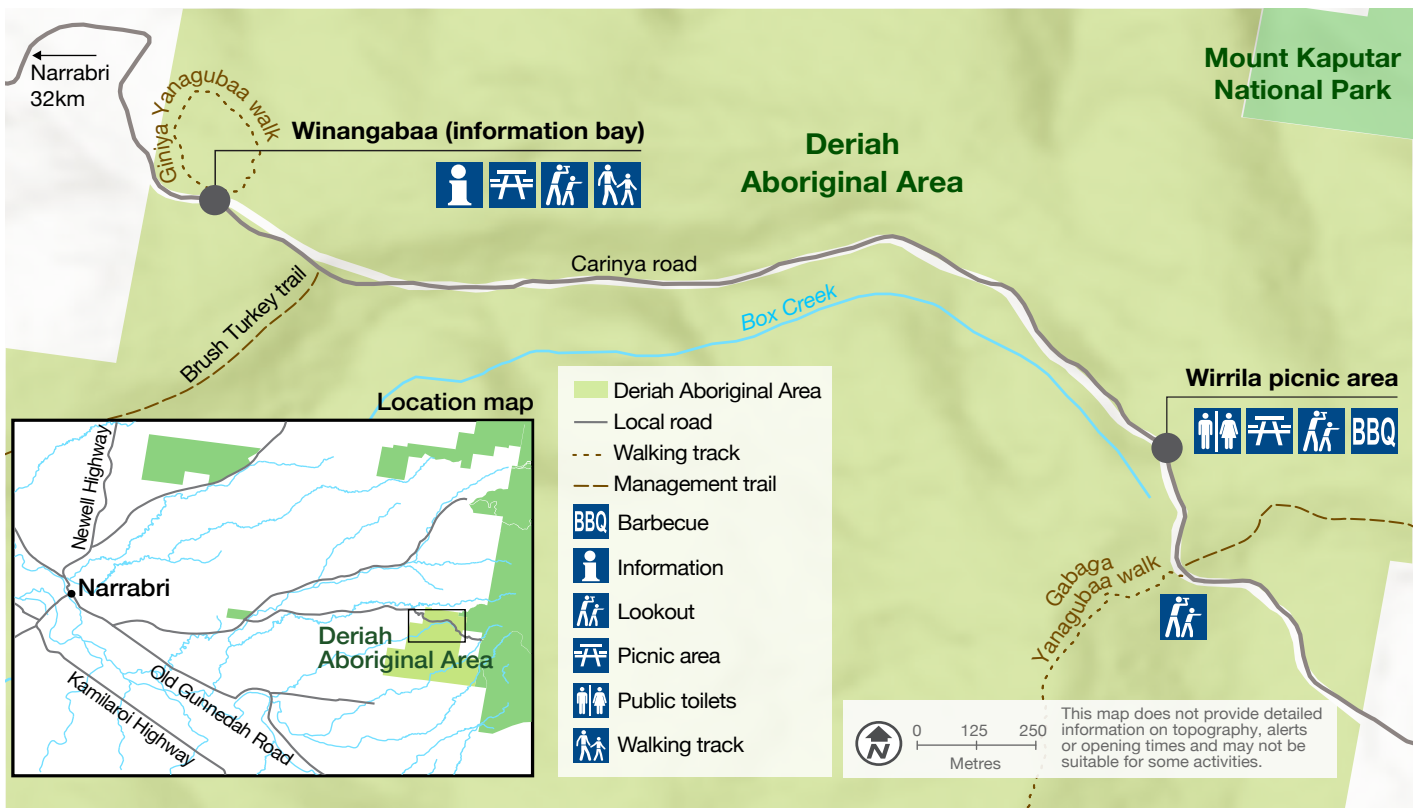
Gabaga Yanagubaa (Place to walk at the hill)

1.5km return

A short walk begins from Carinya Road, uphill and to the east of the Wirrila picnic area. The formed walking track is



Sculpture in the park. Ian Bate/DPE



an easy grade along the ridge with steps at the end. The lookout gives visitors unimpeded views of the spectacular Nandewar Range, Deriah Mountain and the rolling hills of the Eulah Creek district. Signs along the way provide information on plants found in Deriah forest and their traditional uses. Serious bushwalkers can trek to Hawkes Nest Cliffs to take in panoramic views to the south over Maules Creek and watch peregrine falcons as they soar and streak across the sky.

School excursions

An education package is available. Contact NPWS Narrabri NPWS office on (02) 6792 7300 to discuss your school excursion at Deriah Aboriginal Area.

Wheelchair access

The picnic and toilet facilities have full wheelchair access.

Getting there

From Narrabri travel south-east along the Old Gunnedah Road for 3km and turn left into Kaputar Road. Turn right onto Eulah Creek Road and follow for 11 km (the first 5 km is sealed). Turn right onto Carinya Road follow this road up the hill to enter Deriah Aboriginal Area.



Sculpture in the park. Ian Bate/DPE

Places to stay

There is no established camping at Deriah Aboriginal Area. There are established camping areas within the nearby Mount Kaputar National Park at Bark Hut and Dawsons Spring and three self-contained cabins at Dawsons Spring.

Caring for the park

Be a considerate park visitor. You'll have an unforgettable visit if you take care and follow this advice.

- Observe total and park fire bans.
- Leave the park clean and safe by taking your rubbish with you. Don't throw it down the toilet.
- Please don't feed wildlife. It's not good for their health and they may become aggressive.
- Please keep our waterways pristine and avoid using detergents in the watercourses.

You are now in a remote area where the weather can change quickly, and conditions may be unpredictable. When visiting this reserve, be aware of the risks and take responsibility for your own safety and the safety of any children in your care. Remember to plan, choose your walks and activities to match your fitness level. Tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back. For more information about staying safe in parks visit nswparks.info/safety

For more information visit nationalparks.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 072 757 (13000 PARKS)



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